

A True  
NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
Great Solemnity  
OF THE  
CIRCUMCISION  
OF  
MUSTAPHA

Prince of *Turkie*, Eldest Son of  
SULTAN MAHOMET  
Present EMPEROUR of the *Turks*.

Together with an Account of the Marriage of his  
Daughter to his great Favourite

MUSSAIP  
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Adrianople,

As it was sent in a Letter to Person of Honour

By Mr. *Coke* Secretary of the *Turkie* Company;

Being in Company with his Excellency the Lord Ambassador

Sir JOHN FINCH.

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L O N D O N: Printed by J.C. for William Crook, at the  
Green Dragon without Temple-bar. 1676.

They supposed those persons to be great men,  
nals, who had either prosecuted *Quo Warranto's*  
against their *Charters*, or pretended Surrenders

"this trouble.

Another Letter written by a Person worthy of  
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Licensed,

January 10. 1672.

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.



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Attest in presence of the Towns Company

Witnessed with his seal the Lord Embassador

JOHN B. A. C. H.

Given under the Great Seal of Great Britain the 10th day of January 1672



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 Prince of *Turkie*, Eldest Son of  
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SIR,

**T**Hese last five months I have spent in *Adrianople*: it's pleasantly scituated on the rising and top of an easie Hill, which to the *South* and *West* gives the prospect of a large Plain, where the eye is not lost, but bounded with the Mountains of *Hæmus*; on the *North* and *East* are small Hills. It's watered with three Rivers (the chiefeest *Hebrus*) which often uniting and separating their streams,  
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make many Islands, capable of what the most refined Luxury could plant or build; but Spring-Gardens and Walks, adorn'd with Ladies and Gallants, are things unknown to us *Barbarians*.

I have now told you all that's good: For this airy pleasure of the eye is lost in so many solid inconveniences, that I never yet was in any City more uneasy, nay more insupportable: the Buildings (except a Mosque or two) so mean and contemptible, that they would disgrace a poor Village; the Water bad, Wine worse, the Streets and all Avenues to the City so crouded with Carts, Dunghills, and Carrion, that nothing can be more troublesome or offensive to the sight and scent. In a word, what the Riches and Invention of Mankind did contribute to make *Rome* delightful and glorious, the stupidity and fordidness of these people have outvied in the reverse, making this place the Metropolis of filth and inconvenience.

Our arrival here was the 10 of *May*; the 15th began the Festivals for the Circumcision of the young Prince. In a large Piazza, or rather Field before the Seraglio, were pitch'd the Tents of the Grand Signior, Viscer, and other great men; which made a side and half of the Square: Another side and half was taken up with Lamps hung upon Ropes, and fastened to Poles, disposed into several figures of Ships, Buildings, and Woods, &c. which were changed every night; others as they use in *Egypt* at their rejoycing when they cut the *Nile*. The fourth side was the Seraglio, where the women had the convenience of seeing through Lettices.

The Show begun in the afternoon (the morning being spent in Entertainments.) The Grand Signior sitting in an elevated place by his Tent, much like a Summer-house in our Gardens, which over-looked all, received the Presents brought him by the *Basba's*, and all the Officers of the Empire, and all the Arts of *Constantinople*. These were

were not left to the liberty and generosity of the Presenter, but they were taxt what they should give, and an Officer appointed to survey the quality of them; which if not approved, was returned, and perhaps augmented: for in this Country it's no ill manners to *look a gift-Horse in the Mouth*.

The Mechanicks and some of the Souldiery were every day entertain'd in a great Tent with a Turkish Feast; after were antick Dances in several Habits, Singing and Dancing with most obscene Gesticulations, Jack-pudding, and Punchinello's representations, Wrestling, Rope-dancing, feats of Activity and Strength; all these promiscuously in the *Area* of the Square. Had there been but a Noise, Rabble, and abominable Pigs head, nothing could have been an exacter Scene of *Bartholomew-fair*.

At night a row of Poles, about a mans height, were stuck in the ground; on the top were Hoops of Iron, in which burnt Pine-wood with a brisk and lively flame, which with the Lamps, gave a delightful and magnificent prospect.

About an hour in the night began the Fire-works, which were plentiful, and not amiss; though I think those I have seen at *Rome* surpass them: one sort indeed I never saw, which was a great Bason like a Mortar-piece fixt into the Ground and filled with Wild-fire, which sent out a violent stream of fire, with a hideous noise, a great height. It was an Object equally terrible and delightful. These were the constant Divertisements all the time of the Solemnity.

The 25th, the Musty, Visier, and all the *Basba's* and great Officers, with the *Janizaries* walking before, and the *Chiaux* a horse-back attended the Prince, who was so adorned or over-laden with Jewels, both himself and his Horse, that one might say, he carri'd the Value of an Empire about him.

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The 27th, which was *Mahomet's* Birth day, he accompani'd his Father to the *Mofchea*: here was no folemn Cavalcade, onely the Grand Signior's own Retinue; and though it was lefs in number far than the Cavalcade, yet adjusted neater and Court-like; the Grand Signior's Footmen and Pages being very rich in Clothes and Jewels.

This evening the Prince was Circumcis'd in the arms of his Father; he is about eleven years old, of a good Aspect, his name *Mustapha*. About two thousand others were cut at this Solemnity, who had Money and a Quilt from the Grand Signior. It was done publickly in the Tents, and any one *Turk* or *Christian* admitted to see them.

June the 5th this Solemnity was concluded with Horseraces. After ten days repose, began the Feasts for the Marriage of the Grand Signior's Daughter, of about seven years old, unto the *Muffaif* or Favourite, who by the *Tefterdar*, or Lord Treasurer (who was the Compare) in a folemn show sent his Presents to her, thirty Mules laden with Sugar-plums and Sweet-meats, figures of several sorts of Birds and Beasts of Sugar, so ill-favour'dly represented, that they could not be said to break the Law againft making Images, though the Solemnity of the time had not difpenced with it. Fifty fix men, each with five more Vests of Cloth of Gold, Satten, &c. then her Jewels, several Suits very rich; five led Horses with rich Furniture of Pearls and precious Stone, and at laft Coaches with Slaves.

On the 19th of June was the *Visier*, &c. in a folemn Cavalcade to accompany the Presents the Grand Signior gave her: Eighty fix Mules laden with rich Household stuff, very rich Habits for her, and Jewels of all forts, twelve Coaches with Slaves, and fix and thirty black Eunuchs.

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And the 23 was the last Cavalcade of all the great men to attend her from the Seraglio to her Husbands house : They were in a close Coach plated with Silver, attended with five and twenty others. At last came the *Hassaki*, or Queen-regents Coach, attended with ten more ; to every one of these Coaches were two black Eunuchs. In a great Court-yard of the *Mussa*'s Palace were repeated all the Sports and Fire-works that were before, at which the Grand Signior was a constant Spectator. Besides, there was a Rope fastned to a high Steeple, whence several men came flying down: one having a Boy tied to his back with a Drum, the Rope broke ; but being near the ground, and falling on another man, they had none of them any considerable hurt. The most remarkable, was a man that walked up a Rope fastned to the same Steeple, forward and backward ; and another man that upon a high loose Rope hanging by his hand, his body extended, swung himself over twelve times, without stop, or touching any thing.

But too much of these trifles, though the Grand Signiour was much delighted with them, and made them be continued many more days than were intended. He took that fancy to a Gypsie boy that swang and danced, as he hath him in the degree of a Favourite, being taken into the Seraglio, and presented by the Great *Basha*.

The *Mussa* that hath married the Grand Segnior's Daughter, is a man meddles in no business, nor is thought to be much capable of it ; for being *Chimacham* in the *Visiers* absence, he shewed no great abilities. The Grand Signior takes him for a constant Companion in all his Divertisements, and hath a strong affection to him ; which time does not impair, but rather augment ; he being a Prince most constant where he fixes. You would think this Marriage would make him happy, but it's quite contrary ; for it not onely cuts him off in his pleasures to which he is indulgent, he being forced to discharge all his women, even his own Sisters ; but it ruins his fortune, both

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both by the expence in maintaining her while she lives, and should she die, he must refund to the Treasury all he hath had with her, besides four millions (according to common report) of Dollars, which is her Dote; which he is so far from an ability of, that he cannot pay his present Debts. She hath good proofs of his abilities another way, he having, it's said, two and thirty Children.

To our own private Affairs, his Excellency my Lord Ambassador Sir *John Finch* had all satisfaction, and hath obtained very advantageous additions to our Capitulations: but they being things Mercantile, and though not beyond, yet beneath your knowledge, I shall not particularize.

We had a very hot Plague: My Lord Ambassador retired to a Village, but it soon arrived there; so he lived in his Tents till the Sicknes got among the Servants, of whom five died: then he returned to the Village; Mr. North and I stuck to the City, where, though in our street onely two houses were free, besides our own, and the two adjoining had five sick on the one, and two on the other side; yet God be praised we and our Servants passed well along the Road: and here it's not much less. Sir *Thomas Baines* my Lord Ambassador's Companion that attended him in his Chamber, three days after our arrival, was taken, and in three more died; he is the onely English man hath been visited. His Excellency hath retired upon this, a little way out of Town, for some time.

dated from Pera, the 9th  
of October 1675.

H. N. P. S.

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